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May 6, 1994

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TO: The Secretary
FROM: C - Timothy E. Wirth
SUBJECT: May 2-6, 1994

I went up to the Hill on Tuesday with Bob Gelbard to meet with Congressmen Rangel and Gilman to build support for our counternarcotics program and our FY95 budget request. Rangel supports the new strategy but it is clear that we must do more to get out the message on our approach and why we expect it to show results. I will devote considerable time to this in the coming weeks.

I spent Thursday and Friday in Barbados at the high-level segment of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States. In addition to our active engagement in drafting a comprehensive plan of action for the environment, I announced a U.S. initiative, developed here at State, to protect fragile coral reefs.

Narcotics, Terrorism, and Crime

Jim Collins and Bob Gelbard are leading an interagency effort to respond to the Gephardt/Michel recommendations that we beef up efforts to help Russia fight corruption and crime. More training and law enforcement cooperation are possibilities.

The mechanisms we have put in place over the past six months to handle Chinese alien smuggling are working well. The Coast Guard today is to transfer control to Guatemala of the latest ship filled with illegal Chinese aliens. Repatriation should be completed by Sunday.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: WILLIAM E LANDFAIR
DATE/CASE ID: 01 JUL 2004 200301102

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Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

John Shattuck, along with Brunson McKinley of RP and Amb. Rawson, is in Africa to seek an end to the killings in Rwanda and to look at relief operations. John spoke with the new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who agreed to travel to Rwanda and Burundi to investigate. Shattuck meets on Sunday with UN human rights and refugee officials in Geneva while McKinley is scheduled to visit refugee camps in Tanzania.

DRL convened the first IWG on Democracy and Human Rights on Monday. The IWG will coordinate democracy programs to reduce overlap among agencies and will prepare a report to Congress on the Administration's democracy policy and programs. I have asked DRL to make the IWG and the preparation of the FY96 budget request for democracy programs their top priorities over the coming months. John Shattuck is working with the DG's office and with AID to obtain the personnel he needs.

Oceans, Environment, and Science

We are working with H to vigorously pursue Senate action on the biodiversity treaty. SFRC staff have informed us that the treaty could be brought up at the next business meeting. We need to have ratified the treaty by August, when parties to the agreement will first meet.

DAS Colson and EB staff briefed Chairman Pell today on where we stand on Law of the Sea. The chairman clearly is pleased that this issue is moving along and may be ripe for Senate consideration next year.

OES is investigating reports that an American scientist carried out unauthorized testing in India of an AIDS vaccine.

Next Week's Agenda

I will host a meeting and luncheon for UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ogata when she visits Washington next week. She is a dynamic woman who has molded UNHCR into what is probably the best-run UN agency. We are recommending that the President meet with her to try to soften the UNHCR's opposition to our Haitian repatriation policy.

I will hold a meeting Tuesday to review progress on the human rights treaties awaiting signature or ratification. The SFRC holds a hearing Wednesday on ratification of our top priority, the Race Convention. Work also is underway on the Women's Convention and the Rights of the Child treaty.

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